



KONSTELACJA
BIGOS

CONSTELLATION BIGOS

Artists of Polish Origin

5-27 February 1998

Polish Cultural Institute

34 Portland Place

London W1

Telephone 0171 636 6032

Selected BIGOS Shows

1986 **Six Polish Women Artists**
POSK Hammersmith, London

1986 **First Group Show**
Brixton Art gallery, London

1986 **'In Transit'** Second Group Show
the Crypt, Bloomsbury, London

1987 Bigos installations and performance
Worcester Art Gallery

1988 **Printmakers of Polish Origin**
St Pauls gallery

1989 **Group Show (17 members)**
BWA Sandomierz, Poland. Touring to Kraków,
Puławy, Piła & Warszawa

1990 **'Mysteries Shrouds & Echos'**
Abingdon Museum & Gallery

1990 **'Aliens'** Opening of made-to-measure tour
Watermans Arts Centre, Brentford

1991 **'On Uncommon Ground'**
Cartwright Hall, Bradford

1992 **'Foreign Bodies'**
Huddersfield Municipal Art Gallery

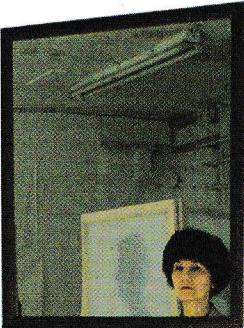
The recent Bigos contribution to the A.P.A. (Association of Polish Artists in Great Britain) show at POSK in Hammersmith heralded a new phase in our artistic life together. The Polish community in Britain is at a critical point of change - the post-War generation of immigrants who made up the majority of Britain's Polish community are, mostly, in retirement. This indicates that there will be a profound demographic shift in the nature of the Polish presence in Britain over the next ten years. Bigos, artists of Polish origin, was set up in 1986 to encompass all those younger artists with Polish heritage who did not entirely identify with those who arrived in the 1940s. Bigos welcomed new immigrants, second generation non-Polish speakers and all the diverse variations of Polish heritage, in a word it was inclusive. There was tremendous energy at that time and after a few large and successful London shows with as many as 25 artists we toured Poland and then got an Arts Council grant to tour England. These touring shows were tailored for the specifics of each location. In the course of this tour we worked closely with Polish communities in Bradford, Huddersfield and other provincial towns. Now after a period of two or three years of quiescent change, this show in the Polish Cultural Institute brings our made-to-measure show to the heart of London. Space is our contingency-identity and its shifting dynamics our group material. Holding on and letting go... The future is inscribed in the art-works of today.

Stefan Szczelkun - December 1997

Niedawny udział członków „Bigosu“ we wspólnej wystawie ze Stowarzyszeniem Artystów Polskich w Wielkiej Brytanii obwieścił nową fazę w naszych wzajemnych stosunkach. Choć przyjdzie teraz zapewne działać naszej konstelacji w ramach bardziej szacownie brzmiącego Stowarzyszenia nadal głosić będziemy program Bigosu, ideały konstruktywnej anarchii, życzliwego przyzwolenia na każdy kawałek kiełbasy, na śliwkę czosnek i grzyb i na nowe smaki. Groźna to receptura i ryzykowna. Nie w smak tym co w posiadaniu niepodważalnej prawdy wiedzą co to sztuka i jak ją gotować. Nam ciekawym bliższa jest radość pichczenia i wciąż próbowania od nowa. Nie ma na Bigos innego sposobu jak ważyć go zawsze inaczej wierząc że tym razem się uda, że chwyci za serce, smakowitym ciepłem po ciele się rozleje, sił doda i dowcipu w dalszym życia polowaniu. Tak oto uroczyście zebrani po dwunastu latach gotowania na nierównym ogniu wrzuceni do garnka w trochę zmienionym gronie znów danie nasze podajemy każdy po swojemu, a przecież połączeni wiarą w polską potrawę o tysiącu smaków. Siadajmy do stołu!

Andrzej i Maria Borkowscy - Grudzień 1997

Krystyna Shackleton Dzieszko



MADE - UP - OF - PARTS

is an attempt to break down stereotype images towards a clearer understanding of the individual within our society.

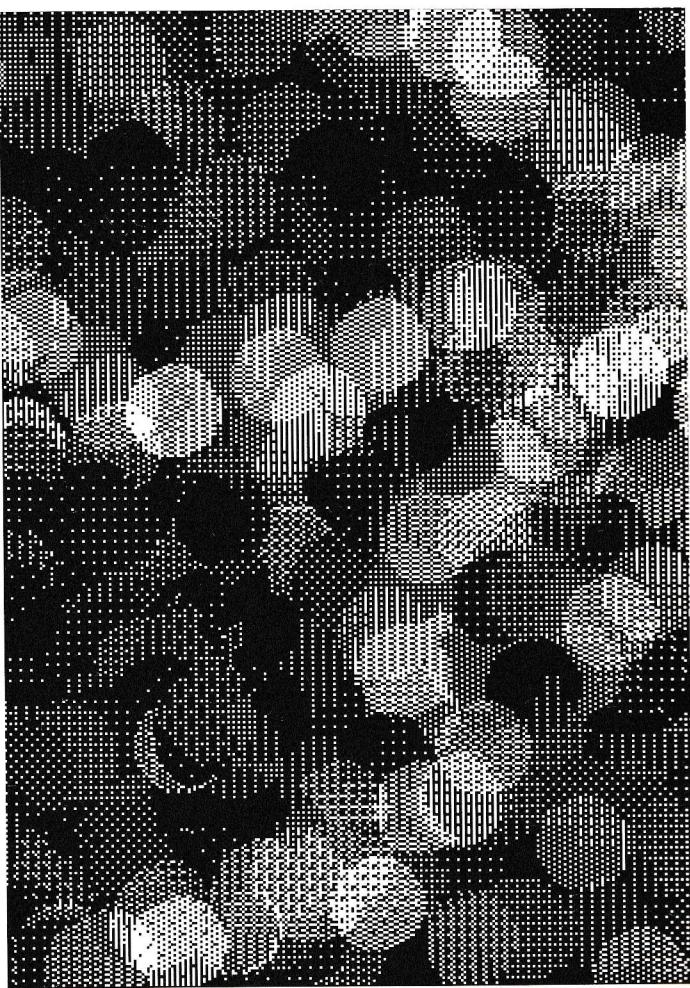
photographic mirrored reflection (165cm x 60cm). London 1997©

"British born, of Anglo-Polish origin, I identify with being made up of parts that are not supposed to fit together."

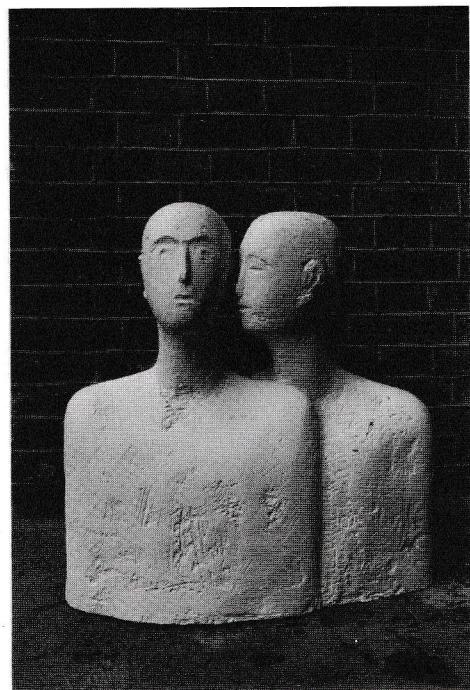
Stefan Szczelkun



Jolanta Scicińska

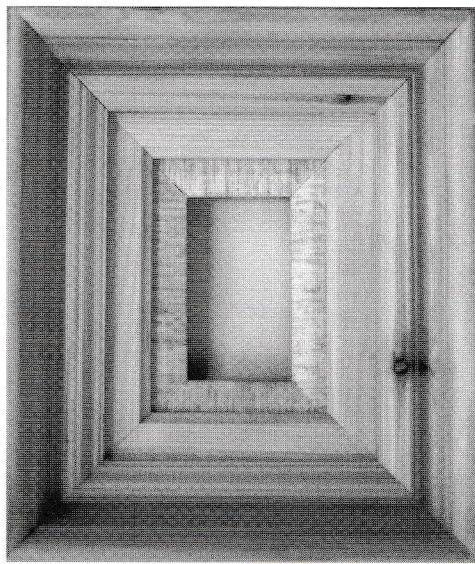


Danuta Solowiej-Wedderburn



From the series **WITNESSES**
1996-1997, plaster, ht. 80 cm

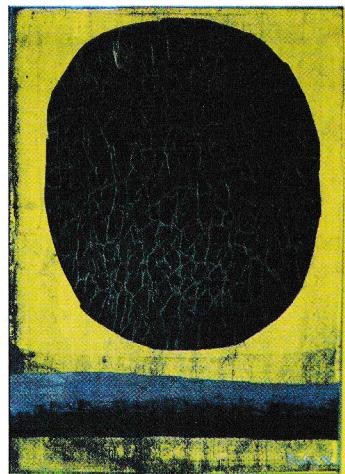
I've swallowed the words



My hands full of faces

I've painted my body with pictures

Louise Severyn-Kosińska



Andrzej, Michał, Maria & N. Borkowski

There are four of us in me. All born in Warsaw out of the Teutonic Knight's and Tartar's blood of my Polish ancestors. Andrzej is an art historian and critic graduated at Warsaw University (M.A.) and London (M.A. Courtauld Institute). He is a sceptical and a sarcastic man, but his art could be fun. He teaches at Brighton University in the School of Art. Michał is an angel and he hardly ever touches the ground. He flies. His is a mercurian nature. It is probably he who is an actor. He worked in theatre and dance and even did some films with Melanie Griffith and one with Sting. Maria is my third name. She is a woman, the Earth and probably a better artist and poet than Andrzej but... Through her I feel. N is my fourth, unknown name. It might be an animal, wolf or ape. It is in me and plays with the other three.

above monoprint John Dee's Magic Mirror

Ela Ciecierska



Karen Strang



Zakonserwowana Rodzina (Family Preserve)
Memories of home-made conserves of fruit and vegetables.

The subject of the installation is my Polish family, living and dead.

Each jar contains wax images of a family member. Preserving the souls of the dead in sealed jars, I burn candles in their memory while they sit next to open jars for the living. The jars are stacked on shelves, creating something akin to a housing block, a familiar feature of urban Poland.

I have used wax from Warsaw and Lublin where many of my family still live and others are buried. The jars are also Polish, having once housed pickled cucumber and cabbage.

The smell of the wax is sweet and pungent, reminiscent of Poland. It is a nice concept that those buried will fertilise the plants from whose flowers the bees gather pollen - the natural cycle.

Basia Janowska



In exile...



Life without bigos? I don't think so.